

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06641 041939Z

56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 SCS-03

AID-05 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 EURE-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CCO-00 OC-05

OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 SY-05 /105 W

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O R 041844Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8489

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0031

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STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS

E.O. 11652/N/A

TAGS: EAGR/FR

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN WINE WAR

1) DURING WINE GROWERS DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 4 IN SOUTH
ERN FRANCE (AUDE DEPARTMENT) WINE GROWERS REPORTEDLY
OPENED FIRE ON POLICE. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED
ONE POLICEMAN KILLED AND OVER 10 OTHERS WOUNDED. POLICE
REACTED AND OPENED FIRE ON DEMONSTRATORS, ONE
OF WHOM REPORTED KILLED.

2) SITUATION EXPLODED NIGHT MARCH 3 WHEN POLICE ARREST-
ED WINE GROWERS WHO DESTROYED WINERY OF IMPORTER.
VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE IMMEDIATELY ORGANIZED TO
OBTAIN LIBERATION ARRESTED FARMERS.

3) SITUATION RESULTING FROM WINE CRISIS (WINE WAR WITH
ITALY) HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO DECLINE IN ANTICIPATION OF
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PAGE 02 PARIS 06641 041939Z

SETTLEMENT. MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT EC LEVEL AND

PUBLICATION OF AGREEMENT WAS AWAITED AS PART OF 1976
EC COMMISSION PRICE DECISIONS.

4) THE CURRENT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE VIEWED BY FRENCH AS
"CORSICANIZATION" OF PROBLEM IN SENSE THAT ENTIRE SOUTH-
ERN WINE GROWING REGION HAS BEEN SUFFERING ECONOMIC
MALAISE WHICH TRANSLATED INTO AGITATION. RECENT ARRESTS
EXACERBATED SITUATION. REPRESENTATIVES OF FARM ORGANI-
ZATIONS HAVE DISAPPROVED OF RADICALIZATION OF CONFLICT
AND SOUTHERN WINE PRODUCERS WILL PROBABLY BE SEVERELY
CRITICIZED BY FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION. THIS VIOLENCE
SHOULD STRENGTHEN GOF'S HAND IN REACTING TO ANY
FUTURE TROUBLES IN REGION.

5) THESE EVENTS, WHILE DEPLORABLE TO REST OF EC, ARE EX-
PECTED TO GIVE ADDED IMPULSE TO EFFORTS OF EC COUNCIL TO
FIND ANSWER TO DIFFICULT WINE PROBLEM.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, FR
To: STATE
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